

## The Third Great Battle.

See Our Special Correspondent.

BEFORE ATLANTA, July 22, 1864.

Since my necessarily hurried account of the great battle on the right, written last evening, I have visited the neighborhood of the engagement in order to obtain a trustworthy account of the events of that day. Before giving these details I ought to explain the Army movements of the previous two days.

On the 20th, Gen. Sherman issued a general order changing the whole position of the army. The 23d Corps was charged with the duty of holding the left of the line against all comers. Its advanced line was to be withdrawn or refused, resting upon the road, on which Gen. Stanley advanced, and greatly strengthened, so as to be capable of holding out against any assault, however strong, or coming from whatever quarter.

The Army of the Tennessee was to withdraw from the extreme left, on the south east, and swing round so as to form on Gen. Thomas's right on the west of the town.

The cavalry under Gens. Stoneman and McCook respectively, the latter being reinforced by Rousseau's cavalry, were dispatched upon an important errand, the details of which, from prudential reasons, I am at present induced to withhold.

All the crippled guns were sent to the rear, and the wagon trains put beyond the Chattahoochee, or in rear of the center of the army, for protection. The enemy was to be closely watched; and in case he should evacuate the town, Gen. Schofield, whose position was most favorably situated for that purpose, was to advance, passing through the town, the army of Thomas taking the right, and that of the Tennessee the left, in pursuit of the Rebel army.

If he still remained within his works, then the Mason Railroad was to be attacked and destroyed from two to five miles; the telegraph wire was also to be torn down and hidden away out of Rebel reach. This order, it will be observed, provided for one of two contingencies which were sure to occur, and answered equally well for either.

It turned out that the enemy did not evacuate the town, and the consequence was that the Army of the Tennessee, which had been "struck" by the Rebel force on the 20th, found itself transferred, and in position on the extreme right, ready again to receive the shock of battle on the night of the 27th, on the opposite wing of the army. The reformation of the line of the 23d Corps was also necessarily changed, and the works made exceedingly strong in anticipation of a renewal of the Rebel attack when they should discover that McPherson's army had withdrawn from its old position south of the Georgia Railroad. The whole movement was accomplished with consummate skill and under cover of night, working parties being engaged all night of the 21st in throwing up their new line of intrenchments. By daylight of that day we were in position to resist an onslaught from the whole Rebel army. In solidity of construction, and in the skill of their arrangement, they far exceeded any works yet built by the Union army in Georgia, and certainly excel the best ever erected by Rebel hands.

Meantime, Gen. Logan, the ranking corps commander, under whose auspices the three corps had been transferred from left to right, gave way to Gen. Howard, who was placed in command of the Army of the Tennessee.

This affair stood on the evening of the 27th, when the 15th, 16th and 17th Corps, after a sleepless night, and a wearisome march, arrived and formed upon the left of Gen. Palmer's corps—the extreme right of the line.

## THE BATTLE OF THE 28TH.

Gen. Howard put Gen. Dodge's corps, the 16th, in position on the night of the 27th, and anticipating an early attack on the following day, he placed the remaining two corps in position—Blair, the 17th Corps, next to Dodge, and the 15th (Logan) on the right of the line—early on the following morning.

Logan met the brunt of the fight. Howard, naturally expecting an early attack, got the troops in position, and inspected them as soon as possible. He had intended that the prolongation of the line should ultimately reach the railroad, the troops intrenching as their line was extended.

## A MISHAP.

Another arrangement was that Gen. Jeff C. Davis's division of the 14th Corps should cover the right wing—a most vital part of the day's programme. Gen. Davis being too ill to take the field, Gen. Morgan was placed in command, and moving early to get into position, unfortunately mistook the road, and marched the command clear to the Chattahoochee River at Turner's Ferry. The circumstance was most unfortunate, as had this fine division been upon that part of the field assigned to it, there is no estimating the value of the service which it might have rendered. There were frequent opportunities during the day where it might have inflicted most destructive blows upon the Rebel flank. Gen. Morgan met with and drove a roving band of Rebel cavalry during his march, and by his hand have prevented serious mischief in another quarter. It was after dark before the division found its way back out of the woods.

In consequence of the unlucky absence of this division, Gen. Howard placed Logan's corps in line refused—that is, with its right bent round so as to protect that flank. By 10 o'clock a. m., Gen. Howard had inspected his line.

The Rebel artillery for some time had been pouring in canister and shell upon our line at short range. We had no guns in position, and Logan was still working to perfect his position. Gen. Howard ordered this artillery to be taken or silenced, and two regiments were sent forward for that purpose. They approached so near as to silence the guns. Two of our own guns were then put in position.

Report was brought that the enemy was massing on the right, and in order to ascertain his intention Gen. Howard reconnoitered in person. Watching the Rebel movement across an open field, he became satisfied that it was not his purpose then to turn the flank. Five minutes later the attack commenced in full force. So furious was the Rebel onslaught, and so impetuous his charge, the guns already referred to had to be withdrawn to save them. Meantime, all the artillery at his disposal—sixteen batteries, between forty and fifty guns—Gen. Howard posted so as to sweep the Rebel line should he succeed in turning the right flank, which now seemed to be the enemy's object.

To prolong the right of the line, troops were taken successively from the 16th and 17th Corps. Each regiment, as it went into position, threw up rail defenses. So successfully was this accomplished, that the last regiment put in was not attacked at all.

The assault commenced at 10 o'clock a. m. in masses, and they repeated the attack, continuing without cessation until 3 o'clock p. m., with a single interval of fifteen minutes at about 1 o'clock p. m. Each time the Rebel came on with redoubled strength and fury, determined to break through our line, but each time be-

ing repulsed with frightful slaughter. Our men remained firmly in their places, and received the Rebel shock as the rock meets and rolls back the ocean wave. Their front was literally covered with Rebel dead and wounded. One Rebel color-bearer, charging at the head of his regiment, dashed up to the rifle pits and ran the spear head of his flagstaff through one of our men, killing him on the spot. The next instant he fell at the foot of the works, pierced by a Union bullet. One soldier was brought back insensible from the effects of a blow with the butt of a musket. There was hand to hand fighting, and the most persistent and determined efforts to break our lines and dislodge us. No troops ever fought with greater desperation, but it was all in vain.

At one time affairs began to look serious. Word came that our men were becoming exhausted, that their guns were getting useless from constant firing, with other embarrassing reports. But their pride was invoked; they were urged to sustain the General's prestige of the Army of the Tennessee. Gen. Howard had a brigade of the 14th Corps brought forward, and Gen. Sherman, unknown to Howard, had also a division of the 20th Corps at hand to act in an emergency. The Rebels tried first one part, then another of our line, but each time with the same result. They did not gain a foot of ground, nor a single advantage during the whole fight, and finally withdrew in despair.

A strong skirmish line was then thrown forward by Gen. Howard to get possession of the wounded, which caused a temporary renewal of the fight. Their dead and wounded remained in our hands.

The enemy used his artillery freely during the whole progress of the battle, but luckily for us, after the first few rounds, their shot and shell mostly went over our men's heads, doing them no harm.

## OUR LOSS.

As estimated at not over two thousand in killed, wounded, and missing.

## THE ENEMY'S LOSS.

Judging from the number of dead and wounded left on the field and our prisoners, could not be less than eight to ten thousand. This makes an aggregate of nearly or quite thirty thousand men lost by them since they crossed the Chattahoochee river. I am told a Rebel paper of the 23d inst. owns up to a loss of twenty-three thousand in the battles of the 20th and 23d alone. Putting down their loss yesterday at seven thousand only which is a low estimate, and they have the startling number of thirty thousand put out of the fight since the 26th of July. The corps engaged on the Rebel side were Hood's old corps, now commanded by S. D. Lee, and Polk's corps, commanded by Stewart.

Gen. Howard rode along the lines after the fight was over, and was greeted by the spontaneous cheers of the men in every corps.

## OPERATIONS ON THE LEFT.

During this struggle upon the right, Gen. Schofield was pushing forward a reconnaissance on the left; Gen. Cox, with a brigade on the extreme left, passing below the Georgia Railroad, where, late in the afternoon, they met and drove in the enemy's skirmishers. Gen. Hasell climbed to the top of a pine tree, sixty or seventy feet high, and obtained a full view of the enemy's works above the tops of intervening trees. He ordered forward a strong line of skirmishers, with instructions to go into the Rebel works if possible. Major Tucker, a brave and good officer, of the 10th Indiana, pushed forward until within a few yards of the first line, when he met with Rebel demands to "halt," and a heavy cross-fire from the enemy's batteries, and lost several of his men. Other portions of the 2d Brigade were sent forward to reinforce him, but it was Gen. Schofield's intention to draw the enemy's attention chiefly to the left, this movement of Gen. Hasell's troops was for a time suspended. Night rendered it impossible to renew the attack on the east side of the town, but the enemy was no doubt considerably exercised by the movement, and a strong diversion this made.

Prisoners captured by Gen. Howard state that they moved late in the day, upon the double check, from the extreme right to the left, to reinforce the line, by which they were greatly exhausted, and unable to fight.

## THE CAPTURE OF THE REBEL FIRST LINE IN FRONT OF HOWARD.

On the 28th the first line of intrenched rifle pits in front of the 1st and 3d Divisions of the 4th Corps, was captured by those troops, together with about 50 prisoners, of whom six were officers.

The following order was read to the troops of the 23d Army Corps this evening, and elicited responsive and hearty cheers all around the line. The noise of the cheering was heard in the town, and so provoked the "Johnny" that they opened a furious cannonade upon our men, without, however, doing any harm, and only elicited derisive laughter from the "Yanks." A 64-pound shell yesterday fell into the headquarters of Gen. Schofield from the Rebel works.

## HEADQUARTERS ARMY OF THE OHIO.

SPECIAL FIELD ORDER NO. 65—(Extract).—The Commanding General orders the result of the engagement of yesterday. The enemy repeatedly attacked with great vigor, and in heavy force the Army of the Tennessee, commanded since the death of the late Gen. McPherson, by Major-General Logan. At every point the enemy was repulsed with tremendous slaughter, our forces capturing several standards and a number of prisoners.

The Rebels did not lose less than ten thousand (10,000) in killed and wounded, and prisoners, while our loss did not exceed two thousand (2,000).

Our victory was complete. Major-Gen. SCHOFIELD.

J. A. CAMPBELL, Asst. Adj.-General.

## FELICITATORY REPORTS.

Newspaper enterprise is a good thing, but the papers which are constantly misreading by publishing false because premature, accounts of the capture of Atlanta are receiving the maledictions and contempt of the army, whatever opinion may be entertained of them at home. Gen. Sherman will take good care to let the public know when he gets actual possession of the place. Although the great mission of the army into Georgia may be considered as achieved, by getting possession of all the Rebel lines of communication centering at this point, Atlanta is not yet taken any more than Richmond, is, though I think it is more likely to fall, and fall soon. The Rebels, since we pushed them back into their inner line of defenses, have fought with a desperation scarcely ever witnessed since the beginning of this war. They would not realize that they are really in that "last ditch," Hood has changed the whole "Fabian" policy of the defense practiced by Johnston. He strikes out with the desperation of a wild boar driven to bay, or like a cornered rat, and one of two things is sure to happen: he will make his army dislodge and drive us back to the Chattahoochee river, or have no army to fight. The latter alternative seems to us most likely to occur. But the public may wait patiently, and look to THE TIMES for the news when Sherman makes his triumphant entry into Atlanta.

JULY 29.—Gen. Hooker was relieved of his command by his own request, and reports to the Adjutant-General at Washington. His reason is understood to be the overriding him in filling the vacancy caused by the death of the lamented McPherson. The experience of the 29th shows that the command of the Army of the Tennessee has been confined to able hands, which is saying nothing to the detriment of "glorious old fighting Joe Hooker." Gen. Stanley takes the 4th Corps, and Gen. Williams the 20th.

## E. S.

P. S.—JULY 30, DAYLIGHT.—From my position on the left hand, early this morning, heavy musketry firing on the right, apparently at the front of the Army of the Tennessee. The fighting has been going on for nearly an hour, it is now just sunrise. Toward the last of

the fight there was considerable artillery firing. The whole has now ceased. I am not able to obtain particulars of the engagement for this letter, which must go immediately. Your correspondent J. E. H., who is on that part of the line, will send you an early report of the facts.

## The Fifteenth Corps Fight on the 29th—Another Brilliant Achievement—The Enemy Soundly Whipped.

From Our Special Correspondent.

IN THE FIELD BEFORE ATLANTA, Ga.,

July 29, 1864.

## THE ARMY OF THE TENNESSEE.

One of the prettiest, liveliest, and most victorious corps fights of the war took place yesterday afternoon in front of the 15th Army Corps, Maj. Gen. John A. Logan commanding, whose command was posted on our extreme right wing. On the 26th it the "Army of the Tennessee," formerly commanded by the lamented McPherson, held the extreme left, but orders were issued that night for the Army of the Tennessee to march to our right flank. This change was not completed until the night of the 27th, when our troops were placed in position, and a large force were employed all night in throwing up temporary breastworks—split rails, timber, and such other material as could be easily got together. Considerable skirmishing was indulged in all night of the 27th, and was continued in a desultory manner until 9 o'clock on the morning of the 28th, when the musketry fire along the lines of the 15th Army Corps rapidly increased, and by 10 a. m. a general engagement was in progress, the Rebels having attacked the 2d Division, Brig. Gen. Morgan L. Smith commanding, in strong force.

## THE ASSAULT ON LOGAN'S LINES GALLANTLY RE-PULED.

At 11 o'clock precisely, the Rebels, who had been shelling our lines quite vigorously, moved occasionally with grape and canister, fired two heavy guns, and ere the report of these guns had died away among the fortified hills which frowned fiercely in all directions, the air was rent in twain with one of those splendid yells which invariably precede Rebel charges. With that rash impetuosity which appeared to characterize all of the enemy's assaults on the 23d, on the Army of the Tennessee, the Rebels steadily advanced, charging gallantly up to the crest of a small hill on which the 33d Ohio, Col. Jones commanding, and the 47th Ohio, under command of Maj. Taylor, were posted.

The position on which these regiments were located being on a ridge, was an excellent one to fortify, and the Rebels, aware of this, and the fact that our men were preparing to throw up breastworks, determined to drive our small advance force from this hill. The 47th and 33d Ohio, finding a vastly superior force was approaching to overpower them, skirmished with the enemy's skirmishers for several minutes, and as the Rebel yell announced the charge, our men withdrew their fire until the enemy were within about 60 yards, when the two regiments opened on them a most murderous volley, which gave their first line a check.

## CAVALRY AND INFANTRY.

It was then discovered by Col. Jones that an infantry column was cautiously emerging from a dense place of woods which skirted his right flank, evidently with the intention of turning his right, and getting completely in the rear of the 47th and 33d Ohio Regiments. This in the rear of the 47th and 33d Ohio Regiments. This movement of the enemy's was scarcely revealed when a large force of Wheeler's Cavalry suddenly appeared, charging at full speed through a corn field on our right, while a Rebel brigade of infantry moved up the Sandtown Road in front of Gen. Morgan L. Smith's Division at a rapid rate.

## OUR TROOPS ABANDON THE HILL AND RETIRE TO THE MAIN LINE.

To remain in this critical position another moment was to insure either the total annihilation or capture of these two superior regiments, and Col. Jones wisely ordered the troops to retire to our main line of works as fast as possible, which movement was executed as only veteran troops can maneuver when exposed to a galling fire of artillery and musketry.

## THE FIRST ASSAULT REPEATED.

These two regiments had barely reached the feeble breastworks, which at that time consisted of a few logs and split rails hurriedly piled together, when the Rebels were rushing in confusion upon the temporary works, their line of battle having been broken as soon as they advanced within fifty yards of our line, by an enfilading fire. The first effort proved a bitter failure, and the Rebels staggered back in great disorder. The first assault repulsed, the enemy, mortified at their defeat, resolved to hurl a larger force upon the lines which had so effectually checked their first attempt to carry our weak works.

## THE CALM THAT PRECEDES THE STORM—ANOTHER REPEL.

But a few moments elapsed, during which time the storm of battle had lulled considerably, when another shout arose, and on came another solid Rebel column. This assault was made with great desperation upon the 2d Division (Gen. Morgan L. Smith), and upon the 4th Division (Gen. Wm. Harrow). As these two divisions formed the right and center of Gen. Logan's line, it proved conclusively that the enemy believed it impossible to turn our right, after the disastrous repulse which greeted their first charge, and their second decision was to mass heavily upon our center, and, if possible, break it. Gen. Logan, perceiving this, had instructed his division commanders to be on the qui vive for an attack, and ordered the lines to be preserved intact at all hazards.

CRITICAL POSITION OF THE FOURTH OHIO BATTERY. Two guns of the 4th Ohio Battery, under Capt. Froelich, had a narrow escape from capture during the second charge. The guns were posted directly in front of our main line on General Morgan L. Smith's right, and had poured shell and shrapnel into the Rebel lines at the first assault, rendering efficient service at that point in weakening the enemy's line of battle. At the second charge the Rebels bore down in solid masses toward those two guns, expecting to capture a full battery. With great difficulty the artillery was drawn inside our line, over the hastily constructed breastworks, just as the confident Rebel had yawned in triumph over the supposed capture of these "Yankee" guns. In this case a "mix" was as good as a "mule." For nearly an hour the battle raged with great fury, the enemy throwing grape and canister into our lines, while our peculiar position at that time, after the withdrawal of the two sections of artillery from Gen. M. L. Smith's front, did not admit of our using artillery. Finally, the terrible tumult began to subside, and there were but occasional volleys. The second assault had ended like the first, ingloriously, but with much heavier losses, as the enemy in the second charge came directly up to our fragile breastworks in compact masses.

## A FINAL DEFEAT—THE LAST DYING STRUGGLE.

Some of the Rebels were bayoneted by our men, and in front of our line the dead were numerous. Chagrined at their second defeat, another charge was made in thirty minutes after the second repulse, but, like the previous desperate efforts, was baffled, and the vanquished foe retired beyond a small creek, that coursed through a dense ravine, in front of Gen. Harrow's line, endeavoring to reform his shattered columns. The Rebels succeeded in again reforming the lines, but with great difficulty, behind a split-rail fence. Our troops were ordered to withhold their fire until the enemy's lines were in pretty good

order, almost ready to advance once more, when at a given signal a tremendous roar of musketry burst from our lines, completely mowing down the first Rebel line, as the long roar of cannon proved this morning. The battle was over at 3 o'clock in the afternoon, a dead calm prevailing for over an hour.

## REBEL ELLOS CAPTURED BY THE FOURTH DIVISION.

Gen. Harrow's division captured five standards of Rebel colors, two of which were from Alabama and Louisiana regiments. The flags are, some of them, manufactured of elegant silk, with the name of the regiment beautifully wrought in colors. The 57th Illinois, commanded by Capt. Shaw, performed valuable service in picking off Rebel officers, a large number of commissioned officers having received their "rights" from the merrily "riddled" muskets. Three colonels, two lieutenants-colonels, four or five majors and captains, and quite a number of lieutenants, were found this morning upon the bloody field.

## PROMINENT TRAITS WOUNDED.

A lieutenant from South Carolina, who deserted to our lines immediately after the fight, reports that Major-Gen. Loring, Gen. Stevenson, Gen. Brown, Gen. Stuart, Gen. Gibson, and Gen. S. D. Lee of Mississippi, were all wounded during the fight, and Lee and Stuart, he thinks, were severely injured, so that they were at once removed from the field in an ambulance. By a late number of *The Chattanooga Rebel*, we learn that "Brig. Gen. Stevens, who was wounded in the fight of the 23d inst. before Atlanta, died a few days since at Mecon, Ga., of his injuries."

## THE REBELS REMOVE A PORTION OF THEIR WOUNDED.

Just at dark the enemy made a sudden attack upon Gen. Morgan L. Smith's lines for the purpose of regaining the field in order to remove their dead and wounded. This attempt was partly successful, and they carried off quite a number of their dead and wounded.

## THE FIRST DIVISION AND THE RE-INFORCEMENTS OF THE SIXTEENTH AND SEVENTEENTH CORPS.

Gen. B. Wood's 1st Division, 12th Army Corps, was not severely engaged during the fight, but promptly performed everything that was ordered, and contributed to the great success of the day, nor should I fail to mention that the two regiments sent from the 16th Corps by Maj. Gen. Dodge, and the four regiments sent by Maj. Gen. Blair, 17th Army Corps, in obedience to orders from Maj. Gen. Howard, commanding Department and Army of the Tennessee, rendered invaluable service at a most critical period.

## THE ASSAULTS.

Our opponents were Hood's old corps, Maj. Gen. S. D. Lee of Mississippi commanding, and Hindman's Division of Hardee's boys, now led by Stuart, with a brigade of Wheeler's cavalry. The Rebels had two batteries in use, 12-pound howitzers, with which they shelled our reserves.

## RESULTS OF THE ENGAGEMENT.

The following are the results of this victory: Five standards of Rebel colors, 100 prisoners, not including 43 wounded Rebels now in our hospitals, among whom are several commissioned officers, including a colonel, and nearly 2,000 stand of small arms. Up to the present hour of writing, 543 Rebels have been buried by our men, and it is thought about 150 are still unburied. The Rebels were badly engaged all night in removing their dead and wounded beyond our present lines. Gen. Logan estimates the enemy's loss between five and six thousand.

## THE UNION LOSSES.

Our losses are quite small considering the length of time the large number of troops were engaged and the ferocity of the contest, which was one of the hottest corps fights of the war—500 killed, 439 wounded, and 20 missing, making an aggregate of 939. Included is a complete list of casualties.

## A TRIBUTE TO A WORTHY OFFICER.

Maj. Gen. John A. Logan is entitled to great credit for the skillful manner in which he maneuvered his troops, inspiring them with confidence by his presence at every point as soon as threatened. We have not a more tenacious, energetic, yet cautious, General in this army than Maj. Gen. Jno. A. Logan, and no commander has a stronger hold upon the affections of his troops. The ability displayed by Gen. Logan in the dark hours of the fight on the 23d inst., when McPherson fell, was very great. The name of General John A. Logan is imperishably connected with the victories of July 22d and 23d, before Atlanta, and history will do him justice for the invaluable aid he rendered his country in those hours of peril and alarm.

As an evidence of the determined character of this officer, the following instance is of interest: Yesterday, while the fight was at its height, raging most fiercely, an officer dashed up in great haste to Gen. Logan, informing him that the guns of his men were so hot they could not fire them, and unless reinforced at once, he could not hold his line. "You have no reserves," replied Logan, "everything is in line! Hold your lines at all hazards, and if your guns can't be discharged, use your bayonets! Bayonet every Rebel that dares come over your works, and every man that attempts to leave the ranks will be flogged!"

Capt. Frank De Gress, commanding Battery H, 1st Illinois Artillery, 20-pound Parrotts, deserved credit for his gallantry. Capt. De Gress is quite a young man, but enjoys a high reputation in the "Army of the Tennessee" for true bravery. Occupying the position of Chief of Artillery in the 2d Division of the 15th Army Corps, the operations of yesterday did not require his particular services, as the fighting was chiefly with musketry, and Gen. Smith gave him command of a regiment of infantry, whose officers were wounded.

He led the regiment into position and performed all sorts of staff duty. On the 23d, when the Rebels charged through the railroad cut on the Augusta and Atlanta Railroad, and getting in the rear of the infantry which had supported De Gress's Battery, drove away our infantry and captured the entire battery, before the enemy had gained possession of our works, where this battery was stationed, he saw that the prospects were rather blue for his escape, and the loss of his battery was inevitable unless heavy reinforcements arrived instantly. Ordering one of his 20-pounders double-shotted, he stood by holding the lanyard in his hand, while a faithful Sergeant stood by him with spike and hammer ready to spike the gun when all hopes had fled of saving it. A furious attack was being made on our breastworks, and already at one part of the line the Rebels were pouring in over the works. Just as the lead of the Rebel column passed in front of his favorite gun Capt. De Gress pulled the lanyard, and in a second more the spike was in and the gun was unfit for further use that day. The dense volume of smoke that rolled up completely enshrouded both the Captain and his noble Sergeant, whose name I have not learned, from the view of the bewildered enemy, and before they had time to recover from their fright, for the explosion took all by surprise, as the Rebels considered the battery surrendered, both officers had made good their escape. In half an hour the battery was recaptured.

Speaking of artillery and heroism, I should notice the gallant conduct of Private James B. Porter, of Battery A, 1st Illinois Light Artillery, on the 23d. This young man, who has served his country over three years, having reenlisted as a veteran, has won the love and respect of both officers and privates by the modest bravery he has from time to time exhibited. On the 23d inst. his section was posted near our skirmish line in front of Gen. Morgan L. Smith, 2d Division, 15th Corps, when the 11th Illinois and 53d Ohio, Col. Jones, were driven in by a superior force of the enemy, who made a dash at the two guns and cap-

tured them. Young Porter remained faithfully at his post till the Rebels fairly swarmed over the battery, when he determined not to surrender, and fell, but he was not mortally wounded at the side of a dead comrade, and for half an hour feigned to be dead, during which time he was kicked twice, and was nearly crushed to death by the crowd of Rebels sucking to examine the guns.

The tide of victory, it will be remembered, suddenly turned, and our troops were pressing the retreating foe. As soon as Porter discovered that the "Johnnies" were falling back pretty rapidly, he seized a musket belonging to a dead infantryman who lay close beside him in a pool of blood, and gathering up a handful of cartridges, he was not long in loading the musket and sending its leaden messengers after the deceived "Chivalry." Yesterday young Porter was Acting Orderly Sergeant, and had charge of two pieces of artillery which were held in reserve in rear of our main line. Private James B. Porter is a son of the Rev. Jeremiah Porter, now serving as Chaplain of the same battery to which his son is attached. Mrs. Jeremiah Porter has devoted her services for the past six months to the care of sick and wounded soldiers in this army, and is enduring untold hardships. The three members of this family are all with this army at the present time. Young Porter is an educated Christian gentleman and a fine specimen of the true American volunteer soldier, having graduated with high honors at Beloit College, Wisconsin.

## CHANGES IN THE ARMY, MILITARY DIVISION OF THE MISSISSIPPI.

By the death of Major-Gen. J. B. McPherson quite a number of changes have taken place in this army. Major-Gen. Howard, formerly commanding the 4th Corps, "Army of the Cumberland," has been assigned to the command of the "Army of the Tennessee." Major-Gen. Hooker asked to be relieved from the command of the 50th Corps, and Brigadier-Gen. A. S. Williams, formerly commanding the 1st Division, 8th Corps, now commands the 50th Corps. Brigadier-Gen. Giles A. Smith, a brother of Brigadier-Gen. Morgan L. Smith, has recently been assigned to the command of the 4th Division, 17th Army Corps. Gen. G. A. Smith formerly commanded the 1st Brigade, 2d Division, 12th Army Corps. Brigadier-Gen. E. E. G. Harrow, formerly of the 13th Army Corps, who was severely wounded at the battle of Pleasant Hill on Red River, on the 9th of April, has been assigned to the command of a division in the 17th Army Corps. This battle of the 15th Army Corps has been called the "Battle of Ezra Church," from the fact that one of those primitive churches stood upon the field, and was struck in several places. Since the fight our lines have advanced nearly a mile. We are now within 10 miles of Atlanta.

## J. E. H.

## Niece Battle Before Atlanta—Hooker, Palmer and Howard Engaged—Enemy's Loss Eight Thousand.

[Delayed Letter.]

From Our Special Correspondent.

THREE MILES FROM ATLANTA, July 29, 1864.

The severest battle of the campaign, since Reuss, has been fought by Thomas's army to-day on the north front of the town—the extreme right of the line. The enemy seem to have had more fears from the direct attack, on this line, than from any movement upon his flanks, and here has been expended his great effort for the protection of the city. The march of the army on the right, and the cavalry demonstrations on the left, seem to have been regarded only as raids to distract attention, while Thomas drove in their center. Acting upon this hypothesis, Johnston has held the large part of his strength in reserve here, until, by the approach of the army on the east, the cutting of the railroad, and the capture of Decatur by the 23d Corps, he heard our cannon almost at his door. The corps engaged were the 20th, Hooker, 14th, Palmer, and the extreme right of the 4th, Howard, only Newton's division.

Hooker had crossed Peach-Tree Creek, and early in the forenoon was advancing southward by the roads leading parallel to the railroad. The enemy skirmished with his advanced line, but offered no determined opposition. Shortly after noon, when the march of the army on the right, and the cavalry demonstrations on the left, seem to have been regarded only as raids to distract attention, while Thomas drove in their center. Acting upon this hypothesis, Johnston has held the large part of his strength in reserve here, until, by the approach of the army on the east, the cutting of the railroad, and the capture of Decatur by the 23d Corps, he heard our cannon almost at his door. The corps engaged were the 20th, Hooker, 14th, Palmer, and the extreme right of the 4th, Howard, only Newton's division.

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## HARDEE ATTACKS OUR LEFT.

About noon, Gen. McPherson received a report from one of his officers that the enemy were approaching upon the left—the extreme of his line—in heavy force. Arrangements were immediately set in motion to meet the expected attack, but as the blow was delayed, the enemy did not attack. To explain the position of the army at this time, it is necessary to state that, when the 23d Corps swung round toward the left, the 16th Corps, Dodge's command, was crowded out of the line, which made it requisite to send the 17th Corps, Blair's command, to take its place, and the 17th Corps, Blair's command, when Blair heard that the 16th Corps was to take position on his left, he advanced his lines and left his trains in the rear. His flanks were thus left unprotected. The 16th Corps, some reason, was delayed in getting forward. During this untimely juncture, while a part of Blair's forces were in the works or had got into position, word came that the enemy were advancing on the left. By this time Gen. Dodge reported the arrival of his corps.

Gen. McPherson, upon receiving the report of attack from the rear, ordered Dodge forward to find a position between the two corps, where there was a gap to be filled by the 16th Corps in position. He was alone, or had with him only one of his orders, a faithful sergeant. Not being aware of a delay in getting forward, he rode out to the front, and delivered a volley at him as he passed. The General was shot through the breast, the ball entering his right side and lodging in his body. He fell only a few yards from the front, and coming up to where the sergeant was already bending over the body, they snatched a handful of papers from the General's side-pocket, took his gold watch, and calling to the sergeant to follow them as prisoners, were about to march off. The sergeant, however, was a brave man, and was left to care for the dying General. Immediately after the Rebels left two of our own soldiers came up and took the General's pocket-book, containing \$500 in money. One of them